[3rd November 1931

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

(*b*) The suggestion will be considered when the report called for is received.

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know what the policy of the Government with regard to these conferences of Forest Panchayats is? Does the Government like to encourage these conferences? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—" I do not know that we have got any special policy. If we want to have a conference of panchayats, we could call it ourselves."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know whether, if the panchayatdars themselves call for a conference, the Government does not think that it is a good thing, as they do it themselves? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—" No, Sir."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know, Sir, if the Collectors have issued any orders prohibiting the expenditure of money of the Forest Panchayats on such conferences? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—" We have called for a report on this subject."

Prisons

Release of Mappilla prisoners.

* 612 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken by way of considering the question of the release of Mappillas undergoing punishment in consequence of conviction for offences connected with the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 as well as the Mappilla State prisoners confined under the Mappilla Outrages Act and State Prisoners Regulation;

(*b*) whether the Government have come to any conclusion with reference to their release; and

(*c*) what the reason is for the delay in decision?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to the Press Communiqué, dated the 24th October 1931, a copy of which was placed on the table of the House with reference to clause (*d*) of question No. 251 answered on the 30th October 1931.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know what the hon. the Law Member proposes to do with the Mappilla State prisoners? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I had made a statement with reference to that on Saturday. Their cases also are being examined. They number roughly between 190 and 200.

[For further list of starred questions, please see page 536 infra.]